decision in consultation with the State of Andhra Pradesh and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) to hand over 1100 acres of land for the purpose of development of a minor port at Gangavaram subject to certain conditions which include inter-alia alternative land to that extent making available to RINL on land to land basis by Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, no definite proposal for providing alternative land has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh by the Ministry of Steel and Mines.

Package for Development of Road and Inland Water Transport in Assam

1076. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:WILL the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating any package for fast development and modernisation of roads and inland/riverine transport in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The river Dhubri to Sadiya has been declared as National Waterway No. 2 in 1988. It is being developed for river transportation in Assam by providing infrastructural facilities such as navigation channel, terminals and navigational aids, etc. The national Highways in Assam are receiving special attention under P.M's initiatives.

(c) Does not arise.

Tapping of Finance for Four-Lane Highways Project

1077. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of road traffic since 1950;

(b) the length of highways to be widened to four lanes;

(c) the money needed for the project; and

(d) the source proposed to be tapped for financing the project and the amount earmarked in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: (a) The details are as under:

	Year 1951	Year 1998
(i) Freight Traffic BTK (Billion ton Km) (ii)	6 23	900
Passenger Traffic (BPK) (Billion Passenger Km)		3038

(b) and (c) About 12,000 km of National Highway are to be widened to four/six lanes at an approximate cost of Rs. 48,000 crores at current price.

(d) Budgetary resources as well as private investment depending upon the viability of the project will be tapped. So far no specific amount has been earmarked for this project.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways in Orissa

1078. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total kilometer of roads in various States identified for upgradation as National Highways;

(b) the details of those roads in Orissa;

(c) the year by which the upgradation work would be completed; and

(d) the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA